PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Friends

What a wonderful two weeks we have had!

This is the time of year that our school is on show. Many of our students are out performing at various events and we are very proud of their achievements. Our recorder band where yet again exceptional at the Banksia concert of the Festival of Instrumental Music at the Sydney opera House on Tuesday August 4. This is always a special night for students to perform on a world renowne stage and we are a very proud school community when we see our students do this. It is a tremendous day for our students as they also enjoy a walk around the Art Gallery and a great dinner at City Extra! It was special to enjoy dinner with the children’s families! A huge thank you to Mrs Williams for her hard work and enthusiasm in training our Recorder Group as well as a big thank you to Mrs Cummings for her efforts in supporting Mrs Williams at rehearsals and on the big night! Well done to everyone involved!

As a school we are busily planning our staffing and classes for 2016. It is imperative that we have a clear understanding of enrolments to ensure our planning is accurate. If you are enrolling a student in our Kindergarten for 2016 and as yet have not submitted the paperwork to the school could you please do so immediately. If you have any neighbours or friends who are also in this situation could you please encourage them to complete this process as well. I have already commenced our interviews for Kindergarten parents and students for 2016 and have enjoyed meeting and talking with our new students.

What an excellent day our school Athletics Carnival was. Thanks to our students for their excellent performances both in their achievement and in their sportsmanship! A big thank you to Mr Attard and Mrs Patrick for their amazing leadership in organising our carnival. A big thank you to our school community for joining us in such high numbers on such a cold day. I look forward to seeing and hearing how our students perform at this week’s Penrith District Carnival on Wednesday and Thursday. Good luck to all the students involved. Mrs Thompson will be team manager on Wednesday and Mr Attard will be on Thursday. Go Cambridge Gardens!

Congratulations to Laura Van der Wal for representing our school in the Junior Mayor Program through Penrith City Council. Mrs Thompson joined Laura and her family on the final night of the program and reported how eloquent and thoughtful Laura’s presentation was and how successfully she represented our school. Well done, Laura!
What an outstanding two nights our school enjoyed at the Cranebrook Learning Community Performing Arts Festival. Our three dance groups and our choir students performed brilliantly and proudly showed the expertise and joy our students and teachers have in these areas. A huge thank you to our three teachers leading these groups, Mrs Rau, Mrs Ptolemy and Ms Austine. Their passion and enthusiasm is evident in our students’ achievement but also in the time and effort that is put into the practice and preparation for these nights. A big thank you to our hugely committed staff who came in large numbers to support our groups backstage and in the holding rooms. Without this commitment this activities would not be possible. Good luck also to our Y1-3 and Y4-6 Dance Groups who will be performing tomorrow night at the Nepean Blue Mountains Dance Festival.

The school has received our NAPLAN data for our Year 3 and 5 students. We are very excited at the school wide improvements that are evident as well as the gains that individual students have made. Whilst this is following a very quick review of the data our staff will be examining the data more closely and will report to our parents and community following this. Parents of these students should receive their student reports by the end of this week. It would be hoped that the information that parents receive is not a surprise to you following discussions and other assessments of your child over the years. If you have concerns in regards to your child’s assessment please book an appointment to meet with your child’s current teacher or their supervisor. Students falling into the lowest bands will have support programs put in place if they are not already involved in these. Please praise your children by focussing on the positives of their report. Please also be mindful that this is a one off assessment and many factors can influence your child’s achievement on the day.

Our K-2 teachers will be participating in the Teaching Early Numeracy (TEN) professional learning program over the coming weeks. Every staff member, K-2, will be led by our Instructional Leader, Mr Morgan through three days of intensive learning involving presentations, planning and implementing activities and strategies in the classroom. This is part of our Early Action for Success program and will build on the school’s previous TEN training three years ago.

Next week will be our Kindergarten excursion to the farm. This is always a most exciting day. Please ensure that your child’s permission note and payment is finalised by this Friday. Thank you!

Our next P&C meeting will be next Tuesday August 25. Mr Morgan and I will present some preliminary analysis of the school’s NAPLAN assessments and Mr McMaster will be coming along to talk about Malus class and the upcoming Stage 2 excursion to the Blue Mountains. Please make a point to come along to our enjoyable meeting at 7pm next Tuesday.

I have been most concerned in regards to a number of our students who are returning onto school grounds after school on their bikes and scooters. Please note that scooters and bikes are not to be ridden on school grounds and this includes the ramps and pathways in front of the administration and hall. It is dangerous for pedestrians as well as trespassing onto school grounds after hours. These students are undertaking unsafe behaviour and there have been a number of occasions
when they have crossed roads in front of oncoming traffic dangerously. They are also leaving a great deal of rubbish on our school grounds. Can you please talk to your children about safe places to play and also about safe and considerate behaviour when out in the community.

Have a tremendous two weeks!

Adam Wynn
Principal

K-6 Athletics Carnival
What a fantastic day our Athletics Carnival was last Wednesday. Although the weather was chilly, there was great support from our parent community and the student participation and behaviour was outstanding. Congratulations to all competitors for earning points for your house and well done to all the place getters.

A huge thank you to all the parents and teachers who gave up their time to help make the carnival a success. Ribbons will be presented at an upcoming assembly, date to be confirmed. Please check our Facebook page for updates.

Mr Attard
Athletics Carnival Coordinator

Debating against Maroota Public School
Monday last week saw our Year 5 and Year 6 debating teams travel to Maroota Public School to compete in the latest round of the Premier’s Debating Challenge. Our Year 5 team debated against Maroota Public School’s senior team first with the topic ‘That parents should have to pay pocket-money to their kids.’ This was a closely contested debate with a lot of great arguments presented by both teams with the Maroota Public senior team being awarded the debate.

Our Year 6 team then debated against the Maroota Public junior team with the topic ‘That all Year 5 and Year 6 students should have to do 30 minutes of chores each day.’ Our Year 6 team’s experience shone through as they did a fantastic job and came away with the win. We’d like to congratulate both of our debating teams for their great efforts and wish them luck in their next debate where they will face off against each other.

Kindergarten 2016
Kindergarten interviews with Mr Wynn have commenced. Appointments for students who have applied to enrol in 2016 will be scheduled in the coming weeks. It would assist us greatly if all applications to enrol are submitted as soon as possible so that we can begin organising appointments.

It is essential that parents and caregivers, who wish to enrol their children for Kindergarten in 2016, send in the application to enrol forms promptly. Next week, we will be notifying the Department of Education about our expected school numbers for next year. These expected numbers will assist our school administration in planning for staffing and resources.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us prepare for Kindergarten 2016. There will be further information about Orientation events later this term.

NEWSLETTER
What a busy term we have ahead of us.............

Walkathon 4th September @ 12pm. Please come along and join in with the kids. To make it even easier you can use online fundraising, and share via email or social media. Create your child’s own page at www.australianfundraising.com.au/online

Father’s Day BBQ 4th September. Each year we cook the bacon and egg sandwiches for all the Dads and Families that come along. If you are able to help with set up, cooking, serving or clean up, it would be much appreciated. Please email at cambridgegardenspublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au or send in the slip below to the office.
Next P&C Meeting
The next general meeting will be held Tuesday 25th August 2015 at 7pm in the library. Please come along, as this is an opportunity to bring together Parents/Carer’s and Teaching Staff to promote the best interest of the school and all the children attending. Decisions we are making at the P&C meetings affect your child’s schooling.

We are open to suggestions of discussion topics and teachers you would like to hear from, either in regards to your child’s classroom or extra curricular activities in the school. Please drop a note into the suggestion box or feel free to email the P&C at cambridgegardenspublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au.

School banking
School banking is this Friday 21st August. Please ensure you complete the deposit slip and secure your money in the banking wallet. All bank books are to be taken directly to the office before school. If anyone is available to assist with banking on a Friday morning please see Karlea or let us know via the parents Facebook page or above email.

Father’s Day BBQ Helpers
If you are able to help out on the 4th September with our Father’s day BBQ, please fill in the slip below. Time slots are:

- 6am – 7am
- 7am – 8am
- 8am – 9am

Clean up.

If you are able to help, but not for the whole hour, please indicate what time you would be available to help out, any time is appreciated 😊

Name: __________________________
Phone: ________________________
Email: _________________________
Time: _________________________

Many thanks, Leanne Reed (President)